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Planning Department

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

To: Planning Board **Date:** April 22, 2008
From: Kristin K. Alexander, AICP, Assistant Town Planner *KKA*
Subject: Gymboree Sign Special Permit – Landscaped Area Design

On January 8, 2008, the Planning Board approved a special permit for a Gymboree freestanding sign at 5-19 Nagog Park (in the Nagog Park retail mall). The freestanding sign has been installed (see attached photos). As part of the special permit, the Board required the applicant to submit a plan for a landscaped area to be planted immediately adjacent to the sign (see attached Decision 08-01, Sections 3.1.4 and 3.1.5 (highlighted)). Attached is the proposed landscaped area plan from the applicant.

The Planning Department and Dean Charter, the Municipal Properties Director/Tree Warden, have reviewed the proposed plan. Please see the 4/22/08 e-mail from Dean Charter (attached). The Planning Department completely agrees with Dean Charter's comments. To summarize, staff believes to fully comply with Decision 08-01, one or two additional woody ornamentals should be planted directly under the sign so vegetation surrounds the sign during winter months too.

Please review the proposed landscaped area plan and inform staff if it meets the intent of Decision 08-01, Sections 3.1.4 and 3.1.5, or whether changes are necessary.

Kristin Alexander

From: Dean Charter
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2008 9:56 AM
To: Kristin Alexander
Subject: Gymboree Sign

Kristen,

I have taken a look at the photos of the installed Gymboree sign, and reviewed the landscape plan submitted. My comments:

1. In the past, we have adopted a very conservative approach to landscaping, and have not taken seasonal color contributed by annual plantings into consideration, in case in future years the owner chooses not to go the trouble of replanting. Therefore, the Impatiens, which would be quite pretty, will not be considered a permanent element of the plan.
2. In a somewhat similar fashion, we evaluate the year round impact of plantings. The Tiger Lilies suggested would certainly add color and height, but only from June until the end of September.
3. I suggest that the applicant add one or two woody ornamentals under the sign to give year round dimension. The other plants would still be useful in adding color.

Regards,

Dean A. Charter, MCA
Tree Warden & Municipal Properties Director

4/22/2008